

Endou et al.
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REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 17 and 19-20 have been amended and claims 18 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found throughout the specification.

The specification has been amended at page 6, lines 1-2 and 6-9 to correct minor translational errors. Support for the amendments may be found on page 6 of the Japanese language PCT application from which the instant application claims priority. A marked up copy of page 6 of the PCT application is attached which particularly points out the support for the instant amendments to the specification.

Claims 17-20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 17 and 19-20, as amended, particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter of the invention. That is claim 17 particularly points out that the application provides methods of screening for compounds that change the ability of proteins of SEQ ID NO 2 or proteins having at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO 2 to transport organic anions.

Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Kanai, et al. (1996).

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Claim 17 as amended particularly points out and distinctly claims screening methods and the proteins suitable for use in same. Kanai fails to teach or suggest methods of screening using SEQ ID NO 2 or a protein having at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO 2. Thus claim 17 is patentable over Kanai. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 17 and are therefore patentable over Kanai.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: October 15, 2003

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BOS23514891